

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02834 150908Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 CU-02 /058 W
-----150940Z 074394 /21
R 150552Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4295

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2834

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT SEDU LE
SUBJ: POTENTIAL DIVISION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (AUB)

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH ME AT LUNCH ON JUNE 11, AUB DEAN OF ARTS AND SCIENCES ELIE SALEM REMARKED THAT FUTURE OF UNIVERSITY'S BRANCH IN EAST BEIRUT WAS POTENTIALLY EXPLOSIVE ISSUE. (BRANCH WAS ESTABLISHED DURING FIGHTING IN 1976 AS TEMPORARY MEASURE AND HAS ABOUT 210 STUDENTS ENROLLED).
2. SALEM SAID THAT, FOR EXAMPLE, HE WAS VISITED BY DELEGATION OF PHALANGIST STUDENTS FROM EAST BEIRUT BRANCH ON JUNE 10. THEY URGED UNIVERSITY TO MAINTAIN BRANCH IN EAST BEIRUT FOR AT LEAST "THREE TO FOUR YEARS." SALEM TOLD STUDENTS HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH THEM, BUT WOULD BE HAPPY TO DO SO WITH BECHIR GEMAYEL. SALEM TOLD ME THAT VAST MAJORITY OF FACULTY WERE OPPOSED TO SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT, WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF PERMANENTLY CREATING TWO UNIVERSITY DIVISIONS.
3. ACCORDING TO SALEM, PHALANGE MAINTAINED TWO BRANCHES WERE NECESSARY BECAUSE STUDENTS WERE AFRAID TO CROSS INTO WEST BEIRUT. HOWEVER, HE BELIEVED THIS EXPLANATION WAS "90 PERCENT INSINCERE." STUDENT DELEGATION, FOR EXAMPLE,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 02834 150908Z

- HAD CROSSED INTO WEST BEIRUT TO SEE HIM. IN FACT, PHALANGE WANTED TO ESTABLISH AS MANY EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS AS POSSIBLE IN EAST BEIRUT ON PERMANENT BASIS.
4. SALEM ALSO NOTED THAT RETURN OF EAST BEIRUT BRANCH STUDENTS TO WEST BEIRUT CAMPUS WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF TIPPING POLITICAL BALANCE ON CAMPUS IN FAVOR OF CHRISTIANS. HE SAID

THERE WERE NOW ABOUT "250 PALESTINIANS" ENROLLED AT AUB WHO COULD BE "CALLED UP FOR POLITICAL ACTION." IF STUDENTS FROM EAST BEIRUT RETURNED, THERE WOULD BE 400-500 CHRISTIANS WHO COULD BE CALLED UP FOR POLITICAL ACTION, THUS MAKING THEM MOST INFLUENTIAL STUDENT FORCE.

5. COMMENT: I HAVE ASKED SALEM AND ACTING AUB PRESIDENT COWAN IF THEY COULD GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF MARONITE STUDENTS WHO MAY BE IDENTIFIED AS HAVING PARTICIPATED IN THIS FIGHTING. THEY SAID THEY COULD NOT, OF COURSE, BUT MANY CHRISTIANS WERE ALREADY ATTENDING COURSES AT MAIN CAMPUS. I SAID THAT WE HAD ALREADY TOLD BECHIR GEMAYEL THAT WHILE WE REALIZED SOME TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION MIGHT BE NEEDED FOR STUDENTS IN EAST BEIRUT, WE WERE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO ANY MEASURES WHICH WOULD PERMANENTLY DIVIDE UNIVERSITY ALONG CONFESSIONAL LINES.
PARKER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, UNIVERSITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BEIRUT02834
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770213-0482
Format: TEL
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770656/aaaabwvg.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: be66147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2149189
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POTENTIAL DIVISION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT (AUB)
TAGS: PINT, SEDU, LE, US, AUB, AMER UNIV OF BERUIT
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/be66147d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009